

NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
318 South Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Tel: 217/492-4450

RODGER A. HEATON
U.S. ATTORNEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



For Immediate Release
July 5, 2006

Contact: Joseph H. Hartzler
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(217) 492-4450

Quincy Man Charged with Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine and Cocaine

Springfield, IL- The United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Rodger A. Heaton, announced that a federal grand jury has charged Larry L. Nokes, age 57, of Quincy, Illinois with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine in Quincy from May 2004 until June 2005.

The indictment alleges Nokes engaged in a year-long conspiracy to distribute drugs, including cocaine and more than 50 grams of methamphetamine. As part of the conspiracy, Nokes allegedly received by mail at least one package containing approximately five to ten ounces of methamphetamine every three months. One package, containing 194 grams of methamphetamine, was allegedly mailed from El Monte, California to Nokes in Quincy in June 2005. To conceal his association with the shipment, Nokes had the package sent to a relative's address in Quincy. The sender allegedly used a fictitious return address to prevent the package from being traced to the sender. The indictment also details four separate occasions when Nokes allegedly sold cocaine or methamphetamine in Quincy.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Illinois State Police Central Illinois Drug Task Force, and the Adams County State's Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph H. Hartzler.

If convicted, conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute carries a statutory penalty of 10 years to life in prison. If a defendant has a prior felony drug conviction, the penalty increases to 20 years to life imprisonment.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

#